

### 2016 ITAA Fellow – Marsha Dickson



Dr. Marsha Dickson is Irma Ayers Professor of Human Services at the University of Delaware (UD) where she also holds the title of Co-Director of UD's Sustainable Apparel Initiative. She served as the Chair of the Fashion and Apparel Studies Department at UD from 2005 to 2015.

ITAA members writing in support of Dr. Dickson described her as recognized globally and the premier scholar in social responsibility and sustainability related to the textile and apparel industry. A pioneering and prolific scholar, she has three books, two edited volumes, 19 book chapters, 39 peer reviewed journal articles, 45 conference proceedings, and a number of other publications, reports, and invited presentations, nearly all focusing on social responsibility and sustainability. Additionally, she has obtained over \$1.9M in external funding and \$163,000 in internal funding. Dr. Dickson's research is lauded for its high impact on industry. Through unparalleled professional service she is working hand-in-hand with business executives and other stakeholders to transform the industry. Numerous awards, media interviews and features, and invited presentations demonstrate high regard for her work in industry, government, and academia, and allow her to be an Ambassador representing the textile and clothing discipline on a global basis. Instrumental in gaining inclusion of purchasing practices in the Sustainable Apparel Coalition's Higg Index and the Fair Labor Association's Principles of Fair Labor and Responsible Sourcing, her current Better Buying initiative stands to fundamentally change the way the global industry works.

An inspiring leader, Dr. Dickson is heralded for her vision in identifying Educators for Socially Responsible Apparel Business (ESRAB, now Educators for Socially Responsible Apparel Practices-ESRAP) as a strategy for advancing knowledge and skills in the field. The ever-increasing emphasis on campuses throughout the ITAA membership in teaching and research on social responsibility and sustainability is described as her legacy. UD colleagues attribute the high regard of their department to her "big picture vision." As a mentor, she has contributed to the professional development of many junior faculty and students whose research and teaching have been shaped by her passion and knowledge. Her innovative curriculum development led to creation of UD's graduate certificate in socially responsible and sustainable apparel business that engages students and industry professionals from around the world in advanced learning. A current project involves an international group of faculty experts in sustainability who are developing learning objectives addressing critical sustainability content for inclusion in textile and apparel programs globally.